Lambda Letters Project

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Sacramento, CA
33377

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Help Fund Free Mammograms

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

There's an easy way that you and your friends can help others, at no charge to you. If you have Internet access, you can go to a special Web site and click on a button that generates funds for free mammograms for poor women. Funding is paid by site sponsors and benefits the nonprofit National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. It costs you nothing but it will help a very important cause. Let me describe just why this is so important. Then I will tell you how to participate in the program.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States today. According to the American Cancer Society, there were 192,200 cases of invasive breast cancer diagnosed in 2001. It is estimated that roughly 40,600 people will die of breast cancer this year. All but 400 of those deaths will be among women. The death rate has actually been declining in recent years. Medical experts believe the decline is due primarily to earlier detection and better treatment.

According to the National Cancer Institute, African American women have the highest death rate of

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LLP Endorses Intersex Resolution

At its July 12 board meeting the Lambda Letters Project voted to endorse a resolution that supports the rights of intersex people. We encourage other organizations to do the same. The resolution was originally composed by the Intersex Society of North America and its wording is as follows.

WHEREAS, at least one in 2,000 children is born with notably atypical sex anatomy; and

WHEREAS, these children are frequently subjected to repeated and medically unnecessary display to satisfy the curiosity of medical professionals; and

WHEREAS, intersex children are frequently subjected, before they are old enough to provide informed consent, to invasive surgical and hormonal procedures to make their bodies more closely approximate what doctors consider "normal"; and

WHEREAS, parents of intersex children are rarely given full and accurate information about the child's condition and risks involved in these procedures, or referrals to supportive information and resources; and

WHEREAS, intersex children and adults are frequently not given full and accurate information about their own condition and medical history; and

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Letters & Messages Collected

June, 2003	17,880 letters & e-mails
In all of 2003	131,632 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

June, 2003	$3,870
In all of 2003	$25,259

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

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Lambda Letters Project

Mission Statement

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy; and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender and intersex persons, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS into full participation in American society.

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Discrimination Complaints

Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation or because of your age (40 and over), ancestry, color, creed, disability, marital status, medical condition, national origin, race, religion, or sex? Have you been denied family and medical care leave or pregnancy disability leave?
If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684. In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212.
The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

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HIV/AIDS Issue

Support Sexual Health, HIV/AIDS Prevention Education

By Jamie E. Shauvin, AIDS Analyst

This month we ask you to write members of the California State Assembly Appropriations Committee and ask them to support SB 71, the California Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Act. This bill would authorize California's school districts to provide comprehensive sex health education to students in kindergarten and grades 1 through 12 and require that all students in grades 7 through 12 to receive HIV/AIDS prevention education.

Introduced by Sheila Kuehl (D–Los Angeles) in January 2003, SB 71 was recently approved by the Senate Committee on Education. It will be in front of the Assembly Appropriations Committee for their review and approval in late August.

Currently, California's sex education laws are a mind-boggling maze that results in many school districts not having a clearly defined framework to follow when providing students with information on how to prevent sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and unintended pregnancies, and how to develop a healthy attitude toward their sexuality. SB 71 would provide schools with improved guidelines regarding sex education and ensure that sex education in California public schools remains bias-free, medically accurate, and comprehensive.

The public wants comprehensive sex education. Polls have found that as many as 85 percent of Californians are in favor of comprehensive sex education for their children.

Specifically, SB 71 would replace 11 existing laws scattered throughout the Education Code relating to sex education with one new section for sex education and HIV/AIDS. SB 71 would respect the rights of parents who want to exclude their children from sex and HIV/AIDS education by allowing them to opt their children out if they so choose. SB 71 would require that educators are knowledgeable about the most recent research on sexuality, pregnancy, and STDs. SB 71 would require that sex education be medically accurate and age-appropriate. SB 71 would require that sex education stress the values of abstinence while not ignoring those students that have been or are sexually active. SB 71 would ensure that sex education be bilingual, culturally sensitive, and free from bias.

Please write to the California State Assembly Appropriations Committee and urge them to approve SB 71, the California Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Act. ###

LGBTI Issue

Convince the Governor to Support Domestic Partner Rights

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

AB 205 is the bill that would grant registered domestic partners most of the rights and duties now available to married couples in California. This bill has passed every vote taken on it. It is awaiting a vote in the Senate Appropriations Committee and then on the Senate floor before being sent to Governor Davis.

Governor Davis is key to the fate of the bill. So far he has given no indication that he is opposed to the bill. However, it is at least possible that he may be tempted to veto it to avoid angering centrist Democrats while he is facing a recall election in the fall.

We need to do all we can to encourage him to sign the bill. He also needs to let members of the Senate know that he will sign the bill. AB 205 is a controversial bill and legislators might be tempted not to vote for it if they suspect the governor might veto it anyway.

Please write Governor Davis, urging him to sign AB 205 and asking him to let legislators know that he intends to do so.

###

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People of Color Issue

Protect Children from Parental Interpreting

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

This month we urge you to write to the Senate Appropriations Committee in support of AB 292. Here is what it's all about.

In families where parents are non-English speakers, it has become common for service providers to use children as interpreters for their parents. Non-governmental agencies, state agencies, hospitals and clinics, and law-enforcement agencies have all used children as interpreters, often because doing so provided an immediate, convenient solution for communication with the non-English-speaking parents.

These situations can be traumatic for the kids. They may have seen their mother raped or beaten. Then they have to help their mother explain what happened to the police. It is cruel to make any child go through that experience.

Children should not be used as intermediaries in such situations, often handling information beyond their comprehension and that's inappropriate or unseemly for them. This includes, for example, situations concerning legal proceedings, domestic violence, health issues, or family concerns. Children may need to miss school to interpret for kin; may be obliged to translate concepts, terms, and issues they do not understand; and are forced to be key actors in sensitive family situations.

Family members and, frequently children, have been used in the past because they are available, rather than because they are the best interpreter for the job. Adults have expressed discomfort at having to use their children as interpreters and a number of reports specifically stipulate against using children as interpreters. Children should be removed from these possibly traumatizing, dangerous, and inappropriate situations.

Involving children is difficult both for the child and for the adults. It may lead to an agency being misinformed through the child's ignorance or shame. In medical situations it may lead to serious and even life-threatening errors.

What AB 292 does is prohibit the use of children as interpreters by any agency, organization, or entity

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Women's Issue

Cut California's Dependence on Sweatshops

By Adrienne Lauby, Women's Analyst

Picture a modern sweatshop: women sitting hunched over sewing machines, teetering piles of fabric overshadowing each workbench, metal cage doors sealing the entrance to each workroom, three toilets for 21 stories of seamstresses, a three-year-old girl playing on the floor while her mother sews, managers screaming at uninformed, frightened workers.

If you imagine brown-skinned women in this picture, you are correct. If you imagine a factory in Thailand, Malaysia, or Jamaica, you are wrong. These images come from a New York City factory.

Ninety percent of all garment workers are women. The majority of these women are between the ages of 15 and 22. Injustices perpetrated by factories that employ the use of sweatshop labor are numerous. Women are paid as little as six cents an hour and work 10- to 12-hour shifts. Often overtime is mandatory. In some cases, women are allowed only two drinks of water and one bathroom break per shift. Sexual harassment, corporal punishment, and verbal abuse are used by supervisors to keep employees in line.

Companies such as Nike, Guess, and Disney should not be allowed to continue to increase their profits on the sweating backs of working women. Neither should state agencies.

Because they buy equipment, supplies, goods, and services, state agencies spend millions of taxpayer dollars on products produced in sweatshops. Assemblymember Loni Hancock (D–El Cerrito) has sponsored a bill that would forbid California's participation in these illegal businesses.

AB 1557 requires state contractors and subcontractors to sign a Sweat-free Code of Conduct ensuring that their goods and services are not produced by sweatshop labor. Codes include compliance with established federal and state labor laws, clear child labor standards, and anti-discrimination protection for employees.

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August Legislative Update

We are now getting close to the end of the state legislative process. The Legislature will be in recess until August 18. Then all bills must be approved by the Legislature and sent to Governor Davis no later than midnight on September 12. As a result the Legislature from August 18 through September 12 is a madhouse with many legislative sessions running past midnight. On September 12, at 11:55 PM, the legislators may pass a resolution stopping the clock. Crazy as that sounds, it will enable them to claim that a bill was passed before midnight when actually it actually might have been passed at 1:30 AM on September 13.

You may notice that the following list of bills is much shorter than before. The shorter list results from three factors. We removed some bills that were reported in previous issues of this newsletter as being passed and signed by the governor. Some bills did not lose any votes but did not get out of their house of origin prior to June 6. These bills are still alive but no action can be taken on them until January 2004. We removed them from the list for now. Other bills were defeated. If we reported their defeat previously we took them off the list. You will see several bills in the following list that are called two-year bills.

There are some exceptions to the June 6 rule. Tax bills (such as AB 4 in our list) and urgency bills may be voted on in their house of origin after June 6. Urgency bills are ones that take effect as soon as they are signed by the governor. All non-urgency bills take effect no sooner than January 1 of the year after they are signed by the governor.

You may see "placed in committee suspense file" on the status line of some bills. The Senate or House Appropriations Committee puts off voting on any bills that cost over $100,000 until the last minute. They do this by putting these bills in the "suspense file." The Appropriations Committee will vote on these bills in late August.

On our Web site (*www.lambdaletters.org*) you will find this same list and be able to link from it to the actual text of each bill.

HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 4 (Wilma Chan, D–Oakland)
Purpose: To impose—for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2003—10 percent and 11 percent maximum rates for taxpayers with taxable incomes over certain amounts, and impose an 8.5 percent maximum rate based upon the taxpayer's alternative minimum taxable income.
Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor.
LLP Position: Support. This will reduce the pressure to cut important health programs.

AB 879 (Paul Koretz, D–West Hollywood)
Purpose: To require the Office of AIDS to convene a task force to develop recommendations for the use of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) in the general population for the prevention of HIV infection.
Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 946 (Patty Berg, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To authorize cities or counties to develop clean needle and syringe exchange projects that contain prescribed components. This bill would require a participating county or city to assess the project using certain criteria and submit a progress report that takes into consideration data from the assessment.
Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet. Appropriations Chair may send this bill to the Senate floor without requiring an Appropriations Committee vote.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1324 (Darrell Steinberg, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To provide that if certain state or local firefighting, law enforcement, or patrol members sustain an injury that meets the definition of a blood-borne infectious disease, and a dependent contracts the blood-borne infectious disease from that person, the dependent may elect to receive worker's compensation for the duration of the disease for all medically necessary healthcare costs. If the dependent elects to receive the award, she or he may not sue the employer.

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Status: Approved by the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1676 (John Dutra, D–Fremont)
Purpose: To allow testing of blood from a pregnant woman for the presence of HIV. Existing law requires a physician and surgeon to obtain a blood specimen from a pregnant woman before or at the time of delivery. Under the bill, HIV testing would not be required if the pregnant woman has been previously determined to be chronically infected with HIV, as specified. The bill would require certain medical care providers to ensure that the woman is informed of, among other things, the purpose of testing and that the woman has a right to refuse testing.
Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 71 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Among other things, to authorize school districts to provide comprehensive sexual health education, as defined, in grades K–12, and to require school districts to ensure that all pupils in grades 7–12 receive HIV/AIDS prevention education.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Education Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 131 (Byron Sher, D–Redwood City)
Purpose: To change the punishments for the first and later charges of possession of a small amount of marijuana.

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Status: Approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Sent to the Assembly floor for a final vote.
LLP Position: Neutral. The bill seems to reduce the number of possession violations which would result in diversion to a drug treatment program.

SB 151 (John Burton, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To eliminate the extra paperwork required of doctors when prescribing a Schedule II controlled substance (mostly potent pain medications).
Status: Approved by the Assembly Committee on Public Safety. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Placed in committee suspense file.
LLP Position: Support. The bill should reduce the barriers to providing adequate pain management to patients.

SB 774 (John Vasconcellos, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To authorize a licensed pharmacist to sell hypodermic needles or syringes to a person without a prescription under specified conditions, and to authorize a person to possess up to 30 hypodermic needles or syringes if acquired through an authorized source. These things would facilitate authorized clean needle exchange programs around the state.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Health Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex Issues

AB 17 (Christine Kehoe, D–San Diego)
Purpose: To prohibit a state agency from entering into a contract for the acquisition of goods or services with a vendor or contractor who does not offer benefits to domestic partner employees, as defined, that are equal to benefits offered to employees with spouses, except as otherwise specified.
Status: Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a hearing on July 21.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 76 (Ellen Corbett, D–San Leandro)
Purpose: To make it unlawful for an employer to fail to

take immediate and appropriate corrective action to prevent harassment of an employee by an applicant, or a person providing services or by any person, once the employer knows or should have known of this conduct.
Status: Approved by the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee. Referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
Position: Support.

AB 196 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To ban discrimination against transgender people.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Sent to the Senate floor by the committee chair without requiring a committee vote. Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 205 (Jackie Goldberg, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To extend the rights and responsibilities of marriage to registered domestic partners, and to revise the process for registering as domestic partners.
Status: Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 266 (Gene Mullin, D–San Mateo)
Purpose: To authorize the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to elect to grant domestic partner benefits to the partners of county employees and retirees, through collective bargaining and based on actuarial cost estimates.
Status: Approved by the Senate. Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

458 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To guarantee the rights of a foster child to have fair and equal access to all services, placement, care, treatment, and benefits, and not to be subjected

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to discrimination or harassment on the basis of actual or perceived race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or mental or physical disability. Also to require training for administrators, licensing personnel, licensed foster parents, and relative caretakers to include training about this right.
Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Sent by the committee chair to the floor of the Senate without requiring approval of the committee. Awaiting a final vote in the Senate.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1082 (John Laird, D–Santa Cruz)
Purpose: The state government and many local governments are part of the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). This system allows these governments to offer health benefits to the domestic partners of their employees and retirees if the employees or retirees and their partners meet the state's definition of domestic partnership. Some local governments prior to January 1, 2001, created definitions of domestic partners which differ from the state's definition. AB 1082 would allow these governments to offer health benefits to any persons meeting those local definition of a domestic partner of an employee or retiree of those governments.
Status: Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1250 (John Laird, D–Santa Cruz)
Purpose: To provide funding for training of teachers designed to improve prevention of intolerance and hatred in schools.
Status: Approved by the Senate Education Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a hearing on July 21.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 85 (Tom Torlakson, D–Walnut Creek)
Purpose: To allow any county to offer the same death benefits, optional retirement allowances, or survivor's allowances to a registered domestic partner of a county employee or retiree that are currently offered to a spouse of a county employee or retiree. However, for the domestic partner to qualify for the benefits, an affidavit of domestic partnership must be on file with the county one year prior to the employee's retirement or death prior to retirement.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Public Employees and Retirement Committee. Sent to the Assembly floor for a final vote in that house. Placed on the inactive list by the author while he sees what the governor does with AB 266. For technical reasons, if SB 85 were passed before the governor signs AB 266, the vote on SB 85 would kill AB 266.
LLP Position: Support.

People of Color Issues

AB 25 (Fabian Nunez, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To require state agencies to accept as valid identification of a person a photo identification card issued by another nation, as defined, to its citizens or nationals, subject to specified exceptions.
Status: Approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 30 (Keith Richman, R–Granada Hills)
Purpose: To require the state to expand the Healthy Families Program to provide health insurance coverage to employed, childless adults who are uninsured for healthcare coverage and who meet certain household income requirements, and also to working parents or adult care givers of children in the Healthy Families Program, subject to approval of a federal waiver and appropriation of state matching funds.
Status: Approved by the Senate Insurance Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 54 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Carson)
Purpose: To require the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, in consultation with the State Department of Education, to contract with an independent evaluator to conduct a study of the availability and effectiveness of cultural training for public school teachers and administrators. The bill would require the study to focus on 10 culturally diverse schools that reflect the diverse demography and geography of

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California and would prescribe criteria for selecting those schools.
Status: Approved by the Senate Education Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a hearing on July 21.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 177 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Carson)
Purpose: To require that voters pamphlets include a statement setting forth various specified rights of voters during an election, including the right to get election materials in a language other than English. The secretary of state would be required to print posters in English and Spanish and other languages, setting forth the list of rights, and distribute the posters to county elections officials for display by precinct officials at their polling places.
Status: Approved by the Senate Committee on Elections and Reapportionment. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 231 (Darrel Steinberg, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To help people qualify for the CalWORKs and Food Stamp Programs which serve limited-income people in California. Because their assets are reviewed to see whether they qualify for the programs, this bill states that a car owned by someone should not be considered when determining whether that person has few-enough assets to qualify for the programs. Would also require each county welfare department, to the maximum extent allowable under federal law, to provide transitional food stamp benefits to households terminating their participation in the CalWORKs program for a period of five months. Also would eliminate a fingerprint electronic ID system now used by the food stamp programs. Studies show that this system is ineffective in eliminating duplicate applications.
Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Put on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 292 (Leland Yee, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To provide that a state or local governmental agency, or a public or private agency supported by state funding, shall not use any child, or permit any child to be used, as a translator or interpreter in any matter involving the business or function of that agency except as specified. Also to require each agency that receives state funding to have available for inspection an established procedure for translation services that provide competent translation services.
Status: Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 309 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: Existing law requires a person in a trade or business who negotiates contracts primarily in Spanish to deliver a Spanish copy of the contract to the other party prior its execution. Failure to do so can void the contract. This bill extends these provisions to contracts negotiated in Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean. Only becomes operative if SB 146 is also passed.
Status: Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor.
LLP Position: Support, but would prefer the bill to cover all languages.

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Legislative Update

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AB 522 (Manny Diaz, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To require local governments to accept for purposes of personal identification an identification card issued by the Mexican Consulate Office, to the extent permitted by federal law, the same as a driver's license or identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles except when possession of a valid driver's license is required by law.
Status: Approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee. Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 801 (Manny Diaz, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To create a voluntary program for physicians. It would develop voluntary classes to teach foreign languages to interested physicians, and teach physicians about cultural practices and beliefs that impact healthcare. The bill would reduce the barriers to healthcare faced by many minority Californians. Will also make technical changes to a program, already in place, which allows licensed dentists from Mexico to practice dentistry in California.
Status: Approved by the Senate Business and Professions Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1657 (Wilma Chan, D–Oakland)
Purpose: To prohibit the sale, offering for sale, distribution, or import into this state of any *prepackaged* gelatin-based (like Jell-O) alcoholic beverage unless it is sold, offered for sale, or intended to be sold in a business establishment (for consumption on the premises) that prohibits the presence of persons under 21 years of age on its premises.

Deborah A. Brooks
Certified Public Accountant

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Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate Governmental Organization Committee for a hearing on June 10. Hearing cancelled by author.
LLP Position: Support.

AJR 3 (Jerome Horton, D–Inglewood)
Purpose: To urge Congress and the president of the United States to repeal the federal law which denies or delays access to federal scholarships for students who have prior convictions for drug related offenses.
Status: Approved by the Senate Education Committee. Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 17 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To amend the laws relating to property taxes on nonresidential commercial and industrial property to eliminate loopholes that have allowed such properties to evade reassessment upon sale of the property.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Revenue and Tax Committee. Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Hearing cancelled at request of author.
LLP Position: Support. This bill would increase tax revenues and reduce the need to cut spending on health and social services programs.

SB 24 (Liz Figueroa, D–Fremont)
Purpose: To require the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program to confirm the eligibility of, and issue a Medi-Cal card to, any child under the age of one who appears to be eligible for Medi-Cal.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Health Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support. This bill would provide another door into Medi-Cal for poor children and eliminate the need for them to go to another office to apply for Medi-Cal.

SB 36 (Wes Chesbro, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To provide that federally qualified health center services and rural health clinic services, as defined, are covered benefits under the Medi-Cal program, to be reimbursed to providers on a per-visit basis. The bill would also provide for various requirements pertaining to the reimbursement of these services.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Health Committee.

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Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 43 (Gil Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To provide an easy way for people to contribute to the Emergency Food Assistance Program Fund by submitting extra money with taxes owed to the state each year. The bill would permit this until January 1, 2009.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Revenue and Tax Committee. Awaiting a final vote on the floor of the Assembly.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 146 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To help non-English-speaking people understand business contracts they sign. Current law requires business people who negotiate certain contracts primarily in Spanish to deliver a Spanish translation of the contract to other parties prior to execution of the contract. This bill adds that the Spanish document must include a translation of every term and condition in that contract.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Committee on Banking and Finance. Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor.
LLP Position: Support, but we would like other languages added to the bill.

SB 853 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To require that healthcare service plans in California offer access to language assistance and culturally competent health care services.
Status: Approved by the Assembly Health Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 921 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To declare the intent of the Legislature to implement a single-payer, universal healthcare delivery system in California.
Status: Approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Dropped by the author until 2004.
LLP Position: Support.

Women's Issues

AB 23 (Joe Nation, D–San Rafael)
Purpose: To create the Mammography Patient Best Principles that include prescribed expectations and rights of mammography patients.
Status: Approved by the Assembly and Senate. Back in the Assembly for concurrence with changes made to the bill in the Senate.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 134 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: In certain circumstances, to increase the penalty for domestic violence if the accused had been convicted previously of domestic violence.
Status: Approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee. Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee. Sent to the floor of the Senate by the committee chair without requiring a committee vote. Awaiting a final vote on the floor of the Senate.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 183 (Joe Nation, D–San Rafael)
Purpose: To include licensed marriage and family therapist and licensed clinical social workers services within the scope of Medi-Cal covered benefits, to the extent that federal matching funds are available for those services.
Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Sent to the Appropriations Committee suspense file.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 184 (Alan Lowenthal, D–Long Beach)
Purpose: To allow the driver's registration public records of the victims of domestic violence and stalking to be kept confidential.
Status: Approved by the Senate Transportation Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 383 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: Existing law states that a person charged with domestic violence must be present for arraignment and sentencing. This bill states that such a person must

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The Pen Is Mightier Than The Sword.

ECCO IS PROUD TO BE A PART OF THE ACTIVIST GLBT COMMUNITY. WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING!

The Elections Committee of the County of Orange (ECCO) is a non-partisan Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, HIV/AIDS, and Women's Political Action Committee serving Orange County and Long Beach, California.

ECCO supports the Lambda Letters Project

Join us as we financially assist local, state, and federal candidates and organizations that support the issues important to our community.

ECCO
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be present at *any* time during a trial to be sure to hear the terms of any protective order issued by the court. This would prevent the defendant from later violating a protective order and claiming he or she didn't know the terms of the order.
Status: Signed by the governor.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 506 (Bill Maze, R–Visalia)
Purpose: To require the police in sexual assault cases to test the victim's blood and urine to see if the victim had been drugged by the attacker, unless the victim objects to the test.
Status: Approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Hearing cancelled by author.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 898 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To require a law enforcement agency investigating certain felony sex offenses, upon the request of the victim, to inform the victim whether or not a DNA profile was obtained from the testing of the rape kit evidence or other crime scene evidence from their case, whether that information had been entered into the Department of Justice Data Bank of case evidence, and whether or not there is a match between the DNA profile developed from the rape kit evidence or other crime scene evidence and a DNA profile contained in the Department of Justice Convicted Offender DNA Database.
Status: Approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1488 (Patricia Bates, R–Laguna Niguel)
Purpose: To declare that a hearing for a request for release on bail must be held before a defendant charged with certain crimes is to be released. The charges include that the defendant made threats to kill or harm the victim, engaged in violence against, or visited the residence or workplace of a person protected from the defendant by a restraining order.
Status: Signed by the governor.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1557 (Loni Hancock, D–Berkeley)
Purpose: To strengthen laws that ban the state from buying clothing and other items manufactured in sweat shops.
Status: Approved by Senate Governmental Organization Committee. Referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 490 (Deirdre Alpert, D–San Diego)
Purpose: To simplify and reduce the paperwork that pharmacists must now go through before selling an emergency contraception drug, such as RU 486, to a customer. Would require a pharmacist to go through "emergency contraception" training before being allowed to sell RU 486 under the new rules.
Status: Passed the Assembly Health Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 545 (Jackie Speier, D–San Mateo)
Purpose: To simplify and reduce the paperwork that pharmacists must now go through before selling an emergency contraception drug, such as RU 486, to a customer. Also to reduce the training needed for a pharmacist to dispense the drug.
Status: Passed the Assembly Health Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

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People of Color Issue

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that is supported by state funding. State-supported organizations and entities must have an established interpretation procedure that does not employ children. Violation of the prohibition could result in the loss of state funding and cancellation of state contracts to the offending institution. Reinstatement would require changes in practice and a formal statement outlining those changes. The bill would not affect casual brief interpretation by a child, such as transmission of office hours, but would rather focus on interpretation of substantive material or concerns that bring a given agency and a family together.

We think it is a good bill and we hope you will write to the Senate Appropriations Committee supporting it.

###

Women's Issue

Continued from page 4

Current law mandates that state contractors certify that no foreign-made goods and services are produced by child or convict labor. This bill will add "sweatshop labor" to this list and expand certification to domestic goods.

For more information, go online and read "Inside A Sweatshop: An Eyewitness Account" by Olivia Given (*www.feminist.org/other/sweatshops/sweatnyc.html*). Also read "Frequently Asked Questions About Sweatshops and Women Workers" (*www.feminist.org/other/sweatshops/sweatfaq.html*).

Sweatshops are against the law. Our state government should not buy from sweatshops; they should shut them down and jail the corporate executives who run them. Please support AB 1557.

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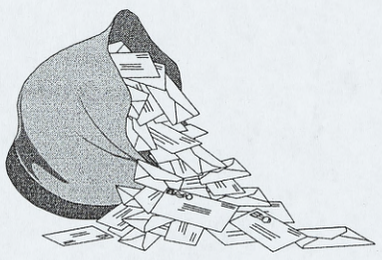

LLP Endorses Intersex Resolution

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WHEREAS, many intersex people grow up feeling hurt, isolated and ashamed due to these violations of their bodily integrity and their systemic erasure;

WHEREAS, in recent years many intersex people have come forth to report that these medical interventions have been the source of physical, emotional, and sexual harm;

WHEREAS, legal and social assignment of sex do not require "normalizing" sexual surgeries; and

WHEREAS, since 1993 the Intersex Society of North America (ISNA) and other organizations have been formed by intersex people to end secrecy, shame and unwanted genital surgeries on children born with atypical sex anatomy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lambda Letters Project supports the rights of children too young to consent to be free of unnecessary medical display and of cosmetic procedures including surgical and hormonal interventions which influence the sexual appearance of their bodies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lambda Letters Project supports the rights of people old enough to make an informed choice to choose procedures including surgical and hormonal interventions which influence the sexual appearance of their bodies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lambda Letters Project supports the leadership of ISNA and other intersex advocacy groups in their struggle to end secrecy, shame and unwanted genital surgeries on children except in cases where there are genuine health reasons requiring surgeries;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Lambda Letters Project urges the medical community to establish and adopt a patient-centered treatment protocol in conjunction with patient advocacy groups under which patients are not made objects of curiosity, full and accurate information is disclosed, and supportive resources and information, including referrals to support groups of adult intersex people, are provided to parents of intersex children.

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State Board of Equalization Supports Domestic Partners

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Under previous rules established by the State Board of Equalization, often the home owned by domestic partners is reassessed at the time that one of them dies. This frequently results in a huge increase in taxes at a time when the income of the surviving partner is much reduced.

A recent vote by the State Board of Equalization changed that. On July 9 they amended the property tax rules relating to this situation. The board voted to adopt new Property Tax Rules 462.040 and 462.240. These rules provide that nonspouse joint tenants may pass on their property interests to each other using a will or trust without reassessment at the time of death. The rules also provide that a surviving registered domestic partner may inherit property from his or her registered domestic partner by will, trust, other prearranged estate plan, or intestate succession without property tax reassessment. (Intestate succession is a process established by state law that lists who should inherit the property of a person who dies without leaving a will. Now domestic partners are at the head of the list, along with spouses.)

These amendments assure that surviving domestic partners—in their time of greatest grief—will not have to face the unwelcome prospect of an increase in the property tax assessment of their homes.
The newly adopted rules will become effective after they are reviewed by the State Office of Administrative Law and then promulgated to local county assessors throughout the state. This final review process should be completed by the end of 2003.

The Lambda Letters Project gratefully acknowledges that the preceding information was provided to us by John Chiang, a member of the California Board of Equalization.

###

Help Fund Free Mammograms

Continued from page 1

any race in the US. Their breast cancer also tends to be first detected later in the course of the disease. According to the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 76 percent of white women had health insurance in 2000, while only 57 percent of African American women did. Women without health insurance are less likely to get regular mammograms because of their cost—yet regular mammograms are an important tool in the early detection of breast cancer. That says a lot about why African American women have a higher death rate from breast cancer than white women.

There is a way you can help poor women get free mammograms. Go to the site *www.thebreastcancersite.com* and click on the pink Fund Free Mammograms button in the middle of the screen. Doing this causes a group of businesses to donate money for free mammograms. It costs you nothing. You will see commercial advertisements on the breast cancer site and the business sponsors of the site do hope you will buy something from them. However, they will make a donation even if you do not buy anything. According to the site, "The amount of funding generated with each click depends on the type and structure of advertising agreements in place and the number of visitors who click. We calculate monthly mammogram goals based on expected levels of support from visitors and advertisers."

If you bookmark this site in your browser you can visit this page easily every day. (If you click on the Remember to Click link, you can even sign up for a daily newsletter to help remind you.) I click on the pink button every day when I go on the Web.

According to the site, however, not many other people do this. As a result, only three or four mammograms are being funded each day. If we all clicked daily on the pink button, they could do much better than that. Please join me in clicking on the pink button.

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